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EXAMINER

WASHBURN, DOUGLAS N

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2863

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

- 1 Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities:

The phrase "the subsequent processing" lacks antecedence.

Correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

- 2 The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-14 and 16-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kmack et al. (US 6, 304, 851)(Hereafter referred to as Kmack).

Kmack teaches:

For each task of a plurality of observed tasks, a display presents a plurality of generic task description options to describe the task in regard to claim 1

(e.g.; column 3, lines 38-65);

A chronometer accepts input from a user to select one task description option for a task.

(e.g.; column 3, lines 38-65);

A data carrier containing a computer program which, when run on a general purpose computer, causes the computer to be a chronometer in regard to claims 2, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32

(e.g.; column 3, lines 51-65);

A data carrier is a memory device in regard to claims 3 and 18

(e.g.; column 3, lines 51-65);

A data carrier is an electronic signal in regard to claims 4 and 19

(e.g.; column 3, lines 42-44);

Each option is presented on a display with an icon in regard to claims 5, 20 and 23

(e.g.; column 8, lines 48-57);

One of the options represents an unknown task and selection of this option by a user allows the user to enter a textual description of the task in regard to claim 7

(e.g.; column 13, lines 9-12);

Option descriptions are loaded into a memory of a chronometer by copying from an external memory coupled to the chronometer in regard to claims 9 and 29

(e.g.; column 8, lines 5-8);

Options are presented on a touch screen and the input from a user is accepted from the touch screen in regard to claim 11

(e.g.; column 8, lines 48-52);

Data sets collected for each of a plurality of tasks which all have the same generic task description are associated together by the shared task description for subsequent processing together in regard to claims 13 and 31

(e.g.; column 5, lines 16-29);

A data carrier containing a plurality of generic task description options to describe a task to be observed in a time study, for copying into a time studies chronometer with a changeable display for presenting the options on the display in regard to claim 17

(e.g.; column 3, lines 38-65);

Each of a plurality of tasks to be observed, a display presents a plurality of generic task characterization options to characterize a task in regard to claim 21

(e.g.; column 3, lines 38-65);

A chronometer accepts input from a user to select one task characterization option in regard to claim 21

(e.g.; column 3, lines 38-65);

Options include a characterization of value added or no value added in regard to claim 25

(e.g.; column 12, lines 6-19);

Options include a characterization of a method of inspection wherein the options comprise sight, touch, and device in regard to claim 27

(e.g.; column 8, lines 17-20; figure 1);

And optional characterizations are loaded into a memory of a chronometer by copying from an external memory coupled to the chronometer in regard to claim 29

(e.g.; column 8, lines 5-8).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3 The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kmack in view of Sellie, Sr. (US 5,557,553)(Hereafter referred to as Sellie).

Kmack teaches:

For each task of a plurality of observed tasks, a display presents a plurality of generic task description options to describe the task in regard to claim 1

(e.g.; column 3, lines 38-65);

A chronometer accepts input from a user to select one task description option for a task.

(e.g.; column 3, lines 38-65);

A data carrier containing a computer program which, when run on a general purpose computer, causes the computer to be a chronometer in regard to claims 2, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32

(e.g.; column 3, lines 51-65);

A data carrier is a memory device in regard to claims 3 and 18  
(e.g.; column 3, lines 51-65);

A data carrier is an electronic signal in regard to claims 4 and 19  
(e.g.; column 3, lines 42-44);

Each option is presented on a display with an icon in regard to  
claims 5, 20 and 23  
(e.g.; column 8, lines 48-57);

One of the options represents an unknown task and selection of this option by a  
user allows the user to enter a textual description of the task in regard to claim 7  
(e.g.; column 13, lines 9-12);

Option descriptions are loaded into a memory of a chronometer by copying from  
an external memory coupled to the chronometer in regard to claims 9 and 29  
(e.g.; column 8, lines 5-8);

Options are presented on a touch screen and the input from a user is accepted  
from the touch screen in regard to claim 11  
(e.g.; column 8, lines 48-52);

Data sets collected for each of a plurality of tasks which all have the same  
generic task description are associated together by the shared task description  
for subsequent processing together in regard to claims 13 and 31  
(e.g.; column 5, lines 16-29);

A data carrier containing a plurality of generic task description options to describe a task to be observed in a time study, for copying into a time studies chronometer with a changeable display for presenting the options on the display in regard to claim 17

(e.g.; column 3, lines 38-65);

Each of a plurality of tasks to be observed, a display presents a plurality of generic task characterization options to characterize a task in regard to claim 21

(e.g.; column 3, lines 38-65);

A chronometer accepts input from a user to select one task characterization option in regard to claim 21

(e.g.; column 3, lines 38-65);

Options include a characterization of value added or no value added in regard to claim 25

(e.g.; column 12, lines 6-19);

Options include a characterization of a method of inspection wherein the options comprise sight, touch, and device in regard to claim 27

(e.g.; column 8, lines 17-20; figure 1);

And optional characterizations are loaded into a memory of a chronometer by copying from an external memory coupled to the chronometer in regard to claim 29

(e.g.; column 8, lines 5-8).

Kmack does not fully teach for time data, subsequent processing includes one or more of computing a range, distribution, standard deviation, mean, or median.



Sellie teaches for time data, subsequent processing includes one or more of computing a range, distribution, standard deviation, mean, or median in regard to claim 15

(e.g.; column 15, lines 4-13).

Regarding claim 15, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the instant invention to modify the teaching of Kmack of for each task of a plurality of observed tasks, a display presents a plurality of generic task description options to describe the task with the teaching of Sellie of for time data, subsequent processing includes one or more of computing a range, distribution, standard deviation, mean, or median because "time and motion study reports may be used to ... identify a change in the work process of the ... operation to improve how they service ... outlets".

### ***Conclusion***

3 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas N. Washburn whose telephone number is (571) 272-2284. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 6:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

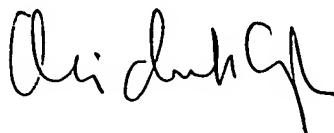
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Barlow can be reached on (571) 272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Art Unit: 2863

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DNW



MICHAEL NGHIEM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

3/31/05